

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/086 W

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R 160941Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9875

INFO AMEMBASSY AUCKLAND

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

US MISSION GENEVA 276

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 706

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, RP, XB, ILO

SUBJ: ASIAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE

REF: JAKARTA 15445, DEC 27, 74

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1. LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE DISCUSSED APRIL 7-15

ASIAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA WITH LABATT ON JANUARY 16 AS FOLLOWS: AUSTRALIAN INVITATIONS TO BOTH KOREAS AND BOTH VIETNAMS --PLUS PRC--TO ATTEND CONFERENCE POSES OBVIOUS COMPLICATIONS. WHILE OPLE BELIEVED PRECEDENT EXISTED FOR BOTH KOREAS ATTENDING REGIONAL MEETING, DID NOT THINK SAME APPLIED TO VIETNAMS. PRC HAD YET TO PARTICIPATE IN ILO ACTIVITIES, BUT IN VIEW GROWING CHINESE INTEREST IN SE ASIAN AFFAIRS, THEY MIGHT WELL ACCEPT INVITATION.

2. WITH REGARD MEETING OF ASEAN NATIONS LABOR MINISTERS IN JAKARTA (PARA 2, REFTEL), OPLE PROPOSES RECOMMEND DATE BE CHANGED FROM END FEBRUARY TO PERIOD EARLY APRIL IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING ASIAN CONFERENCE. THIS WOULD SAVE TIME AND MONEY AND DELEGATES COULD PROCEED DIRECTLY TO AUSTRALIA.

3. IT WILL BE ASIA'S TURN TO HOLD 1975 ILO CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY, AND OPLE OPTIMISTIC ASIAN GROUP WILL NAME HIM AS ITS CANDIDATE. IN ADDITION ASEAN SUPPORT, HE BELIEVES HE HAS BACKING OUF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, AND SRI LANKA. JAPAN AND INDIAN HAVE SO FAR REMAINED UNCOMMITTED REGARDING HIS CANDIDACY, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTANDS INDIA APPROACHED INDONESIA UNSUCCESSFULLY REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR POSSIBLE INDIAN CANDIDATE. INTERFERENCE BY ARAB NATIONS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY ACCORDING OPLE. THEY WOULD TEND TO LOBBY FOR CANDIDATE FROM ISLAMIC NATION, PREFERABLY IRAN. ILO SESSION COULD BE TUMULTUOUS ONE IF ARAB NATIONS INSIST ON INTERJECTING POLITICAL ISSUES, AND IN THAT SENSE, HE WOULD NOT RELISH PRESIDING. NONETHELESS, OPLE FELT THAT AS FILIPINO HE COULD ASSUME NECESSARY POSITION OF IMPARTIALITY AND FIRMNESS BASED ON ILO CONSTITUTION.

4. COMMENT: FROM STANDPOINT U.S. INTERESTS, THERE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OPLE WOULD BE GOOD CHOICE. IN DEALINGS WITH BOTH EMBASSY AND AAFI REGIONAL HEAD-QUARTERS IN MANILA, HE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE. HIS CURRENT POSITION AS SPOKESMAN IN ILO FOR ASIAN LABOR MINISTERS PROBABLY MAKES HIM MOST LOGICAL CANDIDATE OF ASIAN BLOC.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** POLICIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, INVITATIONS  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, RP, XB, VN, VS, KN, KS, ILO, (OPLE, BLAS)  
**To:** STATE  
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